

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. Individual asbestos fibers cannot be seen by the naked eye, which puts workers at an increased risk. Asbestos is regulated by the *United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)*. The EPA regulates asbestos use, removal and disposal, while OSHA regulates asbestos exposure to workers.

- According to EPA and OSHA regulations, an asbestos-containing material (ACM) is considered any material or product containing more than one percent (>1%) asbestos.
- OSHA also maintains exposure concerns with materials that contain <1% asbestos during renovation and/or demolition.

Facts: Materials of concern are those that, when disturbed, may emit fiber concentrations greater than 1 fiber per cubic centimeter of air (1 f/cc) for a 30-minute excursion limit and 0.1 f/cc for an 8-hour permissible exposure limit. These materials are considered asbestos-containing and treated accordingly.

[EPA standard 40 CFR Part 61.145, National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants \(NESHAP\)](#), requires that commercial and public buildings be thoroughly inspected for the presence of ACM prior to conducting renovation or demolition activities.

Facts: Regulated ACM must be removed prior to renovation or demolition activities. If the amount of RACM exceeds 260 linear feet of pipe insulation or more than 160 square feet in other building components, the owner or operator must provide the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with written notification of planned removal activities at least 10 working days prior to the commencement of asbestos abatement activities.

Surveys are conducted on the Middle Tennessee State University Campus by an accredited and appropriately licensed environmental consulting firm recognized by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

MTSU uses trained and accredited asbestos building inspectors employed by a third party environmental consulting firm to conduct all asbestos surveys in MTSU owned or operated facilities. Surveys are conducted in accordance with the protocols established by [EPA regulation 40 CFR 763, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act \(AHERA\)](#).

Surveys include:

- visual inspections of suspect asbestos-containing materials (ACM) that are identified and documented
- once a suspect ACM is identified, the inspector collects appropriate numbers of bulk samples for further analysis
- the samples are sent to a laboratory accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association for analysis
- Reports identifying the specific locations of ACM are then provided by the consultant.

Removal of regulated ACM on the MTSU Campus is conducted by an accredited and appropriately licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Asbestos removal is normally conducted at times when the university is closed to minimize any potential exposure. This work is monitored by an environmental consultant and includes air sampling throughout the abatement.

Upon completion of an abatement the environmental consultant must certify that all work was completed in accordance with applicable regulations. Must also certify that the area is free of Regulated ACM, no pollution occurred in conjunction with the work, and all removed ACM was properly disposed of in landfills approved by the EPA and the TDEC.

Since 1990, the Office of Campus Planning, MTSU Construction Administration, Construction and Renovation, and Facilities Services, in consultation with MTSU Environmental Health and Safety Services, routinely include ACM surveys, abatement, and monitoring in all of their projects on the MTSU Campus. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Air Pollution Control Division also regularly makes unannounced inspections of projects involving ACM.